rural areas, BSNL under its "Internet Dhaba" scheme provides one free Internet access connection along with 25% discount on the Public Switched Telephone Network (PSTN) access charges to the franchisee of Internet Dhabas in the Rural Block Headquarters

DIT has also taken up an initiative for setting up of Common Public Information Centres (CICs) in the hilly, far-flung areas of the country for socio-economic developments of these regions. CICs are a citizen's interface for IT enabled e-government services and are provided with VSAT connectivity and computer peripherals.

487 CICs at block level have been set up in the 8 North Eastern States of Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Tripura and Sikkim. DIT has set up 116 CICs in Jammu & Kashmir and 7 CICs in Andaman & Nicobar Islands.

Insurance scheme for postal department employees

292. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to implement an insurance scheme for the unorganised workers of the postal department;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the total number of unorganised workers who would be benefited?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) No. Sir There are no unorganised workers in the Department of Posts.

(b) and (c) Do not arise in view of (a) above.

Telecommunication links on Indo-Pak border in Rajasthan

293. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to establish telecommunication links for better border management, particularly 1040 km long Indo-Pak border, in Rajasthan;

(b) if so, the details of border areas where this link is proposed to be provided;

(c) the total estimated cost of establishing the telecommunication links; and

(d) by when the project would be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Government has no specific scheme to establish telecommunication links for better border management, particularly 1040 km. long Indo-Pak border, in Rajasthan.

(b) to (d) Do not arise in view of (a) above.

Congestion in mobile telephony

294. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that BSNL's not offering sufficient Points of Interconnect (PoIs) to private mobile operators leading to high level of congestion and poor quality service for mobile telephones across India;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to take any action to resolve the problem; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Congestion in the mobile telephony happens due to the problems within the network of the private mobile operators in addition to shortage of capacity at the points of interconnection among networks of telecom service providers including BSNL. Congestion is one of the reasons for poor quality of service from mobile phones. BSNL provides interconnection based on technical feasibility and as per the time frame provided in the interconnection agreement between BSNL and Private Operators.

(b) and (c) Interconnection provisioning is a continuous process. The Government has asked Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited and the private